



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

123rd Airlift Wing (ANG)

Louisville, KY 40213-2678

COLONEL MARK R. KRAUS



Colonel Mark R. Kraus is commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville International Airport, Louisville, Ky. The colonel provides leadership and management of the flying unit, supervising manpower, equipment and training issues during peacetime in preparation for the wing's wartime mission. He is accountable for working with a wide variety of federal and state authorities in all aspects of operations, personnel, equipment and funding matters.

Kraus has served as an RF-4C weapon systems officer and C-130 navigator, and has held a variety of leadership positions including chief of standardization/evaluation, flight commander, operations officer, squadron commander and group commander. Kraus' military career spans more than 30 years, including six years of enlisted service prior to his commissioning as an officer through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1979. During his KyANG career, Kraus has participated in Operations Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Joint Forge, Coronet Oak, Bright Star and Red Flag. He also was mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

EDUCATION:

- 1980 Air Force Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.
- 1986 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
- 1987 Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, McKendree College, Louisville, Ky.
- 1994 Air Command and Staff, by correspondence
- 2001 Air War College, by correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. May 1982-December 1990, airspace manager, flying training officer and flight scheduler/current operations, 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, later, 165th Airlift Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
2. December 1990-March 1992, chief of weapons and tactics, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
3. March 1992-July 1995, navigator, standardization/evaluation, 123rd Operations Group, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
4. July 1995-July 1997, chief of standardization/evaluation, 123rd Operations Group, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
5. July 1997-November 1999, flight commander, 165th Airlift Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
6. November 1999-January 2003, operations officer, later, commander, 165th Airlift Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
7. January 2003-June 2003, commander, 123rd Operations Group, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
8. June 2003-August 2003, commander (acting), 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
9. August 2003-June 2004, commander, 123rd Operations Group, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.
10. June 2004-present, commander, 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator
Flight Hours: More than 4,000
Aircraft Flown: C-130B/H, RF-4C, T-43, T-37

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Bronze Star
Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Army Achievement Medal
Joint Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Medal with eight devices
Combat Readiness Medal with seven devices
Air Force Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with one device
National Defense Service Medal with two devices
Air Force Longevity Service with five devices
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one 'M' device
Air Force Training Ribbon with one device

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	Nov. 15, 1979
First Lieutenant	Nov. 15, 1982
Captain	March 10, 1985
Major	Feb. 10, 1991
Lieutenant Colonel	Jan. 7, 1996
Colonel	Jan. 28, 2003

(Current as of January 2005)